

**Amendments to the Specification**

Please replace the paragraph at page 1, lines 4-12 with the following amended paragraph:

This application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/261,372, filed January 12, 2001. This application is related to U.S. Application No. 09/931,505, filed August 16, 2001, U.S. Application No. 10/004,289 filed October 25, 2001 entitled "System and Method for Relating Syntax and Semantics for a Conversational Speech Application," concurrently filed U.S. Application No. 10/044,760 entitled "Method and Apparatus for Converting Utterance Representations into Actions in a Conversational System," and concurrently filed U.S. Application No. 10/044,464 entitled "System and Method for Deriving Natural Language Representation of Formal Belief Structures." The entire teachings of the above applications are incorporated herein by reference.